

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. In this Reply, claim 4 is cancelled and the features therein are incorporated into independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5-15 and 17-25 are pending. Claims 1, 10 and 20 are independent.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant appreciates that claims 10-15 are indicated to be allowable. Applicant further appreciates that claims 4-6 are indicated to define allowable subject matter.

§ 102 REJECTION – FURUSAWA

Claims 1-3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Furusawa et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0195920). See *Final Office Action*, pages 3-4.

Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner. However, features of claim 4, which is indicated to include allowable subject matter, are incorporated into independent claim 1 merely to promote the progress of the prosecution. As amended, independent claim 1 is distinguishable over Furusawa. Claims 2-3 and 7 depend from independent claim 1 directly or

indirectly. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, these dependent claims are also distinguishable over Furusawa.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 7 based on Furusawa be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – FURUSAWA, NISHIKI

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Furusawa in view of Nishiki et al., (U.S. Publication 2001/0018309). *See Final Office Action, page 5.*

It is noted that claim 8 depends from independent claim 1 and as demonstrated above, claim 1 is now allowable. Then for at least due to the dependency thereon, claim 8 is also allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 8 based on Furusawa and Nishiki et al. be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – FURUSAWA, KAWAMURA

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Furusawa in view of Kawamura et al., (U.S. Patent 6,448,706). *See Final Office Action, page 5-6.*

It is noted that claim 8 depends from independent claim 1 and as demonstrated above, claim 1 is now allowable. Then for at least due to the dependency thereon, claim 8 is also allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 8 based on Furusawa and Kawamura et al. be withdrawn.

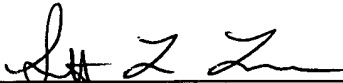
CONCLUSION


All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH &, BIRCH, LLP

By: 
Scott L. Lowe
Reg. No. 41,458


EHC/HNS/bsh
3449-0287P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000